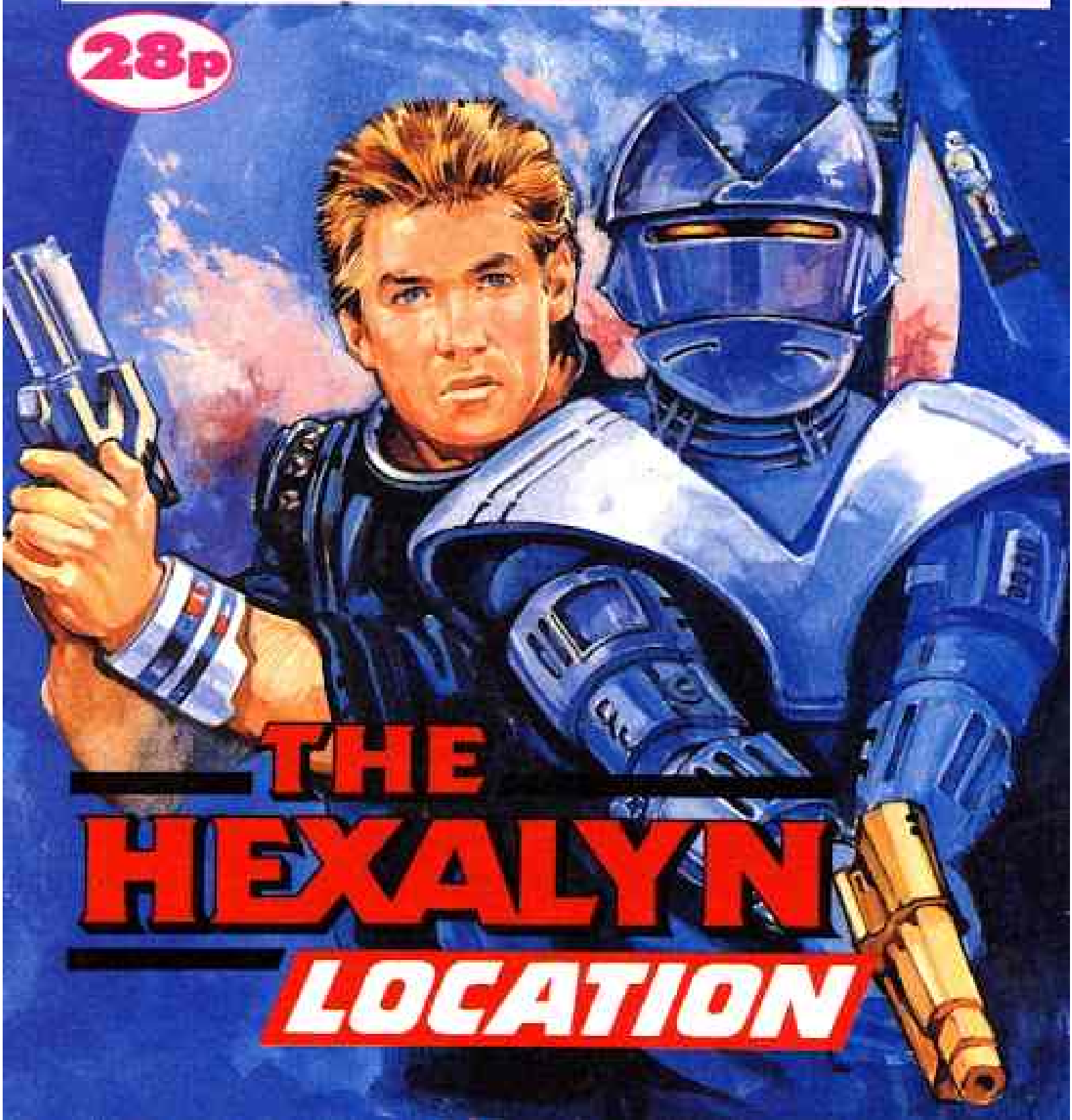
STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 205

28p



THE HEXALYN LOCATION

DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S *OTHER*

On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*

The HEXALYN LOCATION

I WAS LOOKING FOR A ROGUE ANDROID, CALLED ARGOL, WHO HAD STOLEN THE JOVIAN CHAIN — A NECKLACE MADE OF ARTELIUM, THE RAREST METAL IN THE GALAXY . . .
I'D TRACKED HIM HALFWAY ACROSS THE SYSTEM, TILL HE'D FINALLY RUN BACK TO DENTUSA — TO THE ONE PLACE HE THOUGHT I'D NEVER LOOK . . .
. . . MY OFFICE!
MARCUS GANT
BUT I'M THE BEST LOCATOR IN THE BUSINESS . . .

ARGOL! THIS IS AN OFFICIAL LOCATION — YOU'VE GOT THREE TEMPRALS TO COME OUT WITH YOUR ARMS IN THE AIR!
THREE . . . TWO . . .
11
ONE . . . UNGHHHHHHH!
CRASH!
YOU WILL NEVER CATCH ME, HUMANOID SCUM! I SHALL KILL YOU FIRST!

GRRRRAAAAGHHHH!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!?
BUT HE'S FIVE TIMES HEAVIER, TOO. AND HE'S CARRYING THAT NECKLACE, MADE OF ARTELIUM!
LOST MY BLASTER! AND ARGOL'S FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN I AM . . .
I WAS NEVER THAT HOT AT SCIENCE, BUT I DID KNOW ABOUT ARTELIUM. FORGED IN THE HEART OF A BLACK HOLE, IT POSSESSED EXTRAORDINARY MASS — EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF IT COULD WEIGH TONS!
COME BACK HERE, LOCATOR! I WANT TO END THIS —
AND I KNEW SOMETHING ELSE AS WELL . . .

I WANT TO END IT NOW! WHA . . ?
CRACK!
I KNEW WHERE MY ROTTING FLOORBOARDS WERE.
NOOOOO!!!!

UUUUUURRRRRRGGGGHHHHHH!!!
HEAVY, MAN!
ONCE THE JOVIAN CHAIN HAD BEEN RETRIEVED, I CALLED IN THE LOCAL SECURITY UNIT.

HEY! I'M THE LOCATOR, REMEMBER? YOU'RE MEANT TO LEAVE ME ALONE AND ARREST THE ANDROID!
YOU'RE NOT ARRESTED GANT. BUT SOMEONE WANTS TO SEE YOU . . .
THE SOMEONE WAS A VERY BIG BRASS.
AH — MISTER GANT! SO GOOD OF YOU TO COME!
AMBASSADOR CALEX? W-WHAT IN SPACE IS ALL THIS ABOUT?

KIELGOTH
WAR, MR GANT! THE WAR BETWEEN KIELGOTH AND HEXALYN HAS RAGED FOR TWELVE REVOLUTIONS AND EVERY CYCLE IT GOES ON INCREASES THE THREAT THAT WE MAY BE DRAGGED INTO IT!
SURE, BUT DIDN'T I READ THAT THE EMPEROR OF KIELGOTH'S DAUGHTER WAS MARRYING THE PRINCE OF HEXALYN? THAT'LL END THE WAR!
YES — IF IT GOES AHEAD. SOMEONE HAS HIRED IKON LEECH, THE ASSASSIN, TO KILL EITHER PRINCESS JULYSZA OR PRINCE DORR! WE WANT HIM STOPPED.
STOP LEECH — A CARTUSIAN MASTER ASSASSIN! THOSE GUYS ARE DANGEROUS!
IT'S TOO VITAL A TASK FOR JUST ONE MAN. SO THE LASZLO CORPORATION ARE LENDING US ALADIN — AUTOMATIN LOCATE AND DESTROY INSTRUMENT. HERE IT COMES NOW.
I'VE HEARD OF GADGETS LIKE THAT . . . THEY TRACE PEOPLE BY THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE. THEY'VE PUT A LOT OF US OLD-TIME LOCATORS OUT OF BUSINESS.

WE AT THE LASZLO CORPORATION ARE SUPPLYING ALADIN FREE. IT'LL BE GOOD PUBLICITY SHOWING IT CAN BETTER A HUMAN DOING THE SAME JOB.
YEAH? WELL, A WORD OF ADVICE . . . KEEP IT OUT OF MY WAY!
EVERYTHING WAS LAID ON—
THANKS FOR THE LOAN OF THE STARCRUISER, AMBASSADOR. I'LL NEED ALL THE SPEED I CAN GET TO BEAT THAT TIN TRACKER! ER . . . WHERE AM I HEADED?
HEXALYN — THAT'S WHERE THE WEDDING IS TAKING PLACE! JUST REMEMBER THAT BEATING ALADIN ISN'T YOUR MISSION. STOPPING LEECH IS — FAILURE COULD PLUNGE US INTO WAR! GOOD LUCK — AND TIDY UP!

I WAS GOING TO NEED MORE THAN LUCK! FIRST, I NEEDED A COVER—
THIS IS TOURIST CLASS STARCRUISER 'MARRIED BLISS', HERE TO SEE THE BIG WEDDING. REQUEST PERMISSION TO LAND.
PERMISSION DENIED, 'MARRIED BLISS'. NO ONE IS ALLOWED ONTO HEXALYN DURING THE PERIOD OF THE WEDDING UNLESS THEY ARE WEARING A FULL MORNING SUIT. SCANNERS INDICATE THAT YOU ARE NOT. SHOULD YOU WISH TO PURCHASE ONE, HOWEVER . . .
AT THE NEAREST BRANCH OF STARROD'S —
INSIDE LEG 35 UNITS! MY, YOU'RE A TALL FELLOW, AREN'T YOU SIR?
JUST HOLD THE PERSONAL COMMENTS, PINCUSHION FACE . . .

. . . AND GET ME A SUIT!
CERTAINLY, I THINK SIR WILL FIND THIS TO HIS LIKING — IT MIGHT EVEN PUT HIM INTO A NICER MOOD! YOU MAY TRY IT ON . . .
IN ONE OF THE CHANGING UNITS.
UNGHHH . . . STUPID THING! I'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE TRYING TO CLIMB INTO MY SOCK! AND . . . WAIT!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE . . . THAT HUMMING SOUND . . . COMING FROM THE NEXT UNIT?

I'D NEVER SEEN A ROBOT IN A MORNING SUIT —
ALADIN!
MARCUS GANT . . . RIVAL . . . OBSTACLE TO SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MISSION . . . THEREFORE . . .
. . . DESTROY MARCUS GANT!
WHOOMP!
WHAT THE . . ?

DESTROY MODE ENGAGED!
AH . . . HOW DID SIR LIKE THE . . .
I'LL TAKE IT!
I'D BETTER STOP THAT METAL MORON BEFORE HE INJURES ANYONE.
DESTROY MODE ENGAGED . . . MARCUS GANT . . . PLEASE PRESENT YOURSELF FOR DESTRUCTION . . .

. . . RESISTANCE IS USELESS!
CAN'T PENETRATE ITS ARMOUR — EVEN WITH HI-INTENSITY BOLTS! ONLY ONE OTHER THING TO DO . . .
TRY AND GET SOME MORE FIREPOWER!
WEAPONS FOR ALL
PLEASE HALT . . . SO I MAY MAKE THIS LESS PAINFUL . . .
ALADIN FOLLOWED ME TOWARDS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WEAPONS SHOP.
GANT . . . NOT VISIBLE ON MONITORING UNIT . . .

. . . SO MUST . . . BZZT! UNDER ATTACK . . . UNDER ATTACK!
HAH!
THE ROOF FELL ON HIM.
SO MUCH FOR THE LASZLO CORPORATION'S WONDERFUL NEW ROBOT! NOW MAYBE I CAN CONCENTRATE ON MY MISSION.

NO!
WHA . . ?
ALADIN WAS TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT!
OH,NO! EXPRESS TUBES ARE ALL BEING USED . . . THERE'S NO WAY OFF THIS LEVEL . . .
ZZZTTTTTT
FR
GOT TO GET OFF THIS SATELLITE . . . OR I MAY NOT LIVE TO FINISH MISSION . . .

UNLESS . . . I MAKE MY OWN DOOR!
GOING DOWN! LET'S SEE THE TIN TRACKER FOLLOW ME NOW!
I JUMPED—

BUT—
ESCAPE IS IMPOSSIBLE . . . SURRENDER!
HE'S STILL COMING. ALL RIGHT . . .
EMERGENCY ACTION WAS CALLED FOR—
SORRY, FOLKS . . . THIS IS A HIJACK! EVERYBODY OUT!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

RETALIATE!
THESE THINGS WORK ON A GRAVITY/ANTI-GRAVITY DRIVE — AND I'VE JUST DESTROYED THE GRAVITY UNIT, SO . . .
IMPOSSIBLE . . .
THE LACK OF GRAVITY CAUSED THE TRANSPORT UNIT TO SHOOT UP THE TUBE.
VELOCITY INCREASING . . . EVASIVE ACTION IMPOSSIBLE . . . IMPOSSIBLE . . .
THAT WAS ALADIN OUT OF MY WAY FOR A WHILE . . .

. . . WHILE I GOT AFTER IKON LEECH!
BUSINESS OR PLEASURE, MR GANT?
ER . . . PLEASURE. I'M STAYING FOR THE WEDDING. THAT IS . . .

I FOUND SOMEWHERE TO STAY.
THE ROYAL HOTEL? I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF BOOKING INTO A DUSTBIN! STILL — AT LEAST THERE'S ROOM TO SET UP MY LOCATING EQUIPMENT.
I'VE PROGRAMMED ALL THE AVAILABLE DATA ON LEECH INTO THE LOC-UNIT, ALONG WITH A DETAILED SURFACE-SCAN OF THE PLANET! SO, WITH A BIT OF LUCK . . .

I'LL GET HIS PROBABLE LOCATION ON THE NAV-PACK . . . AHA! IT'S ANOTHER HOTEL . . .
. . . THE HOTEL STRATOSPHERIC.
THE MANAGER SAID LEECH IS IN THE PENTHOUSE, AND I CAN SEE WHY — IT DIRECTLY OVERLOOKS THE ROYAL PALACE! I WONDER WHETHER HE'S BEEN HIRED TO ASSASSINATE PRINCE DORR . . . OR IF HE'S WAITING TILL PRINCESS JULYSZA ARRIVES! WHICHEVER IT IS . . . BET HE'LL BE PRETTY SURPRISED TO SEE ME!
I PUT ON A JETPAK . . .

HE WAS!
IKON LEECH! FREEZE! THIS IS AN OFFICIAL LOCATION!
I'M PLACING YOU UNDER *AR-UH?*
NO!
GRAB!

MARCUS GANT!
ALADIN! I — I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU SO SOON!
I AM AN A.L.A.D.I.N. 4000 SERIES . . . NOTHING CAN STOP ME! GOODBYE . . . MARCUS GANT!
OH, SHINE ON HARVEST MOON! THE UNIT HASN'T FIRED! I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GOT THE TRANSMISSION SEEN TO BEFORE I LEFT DENTUSA!
NO! NO! AAARGHHHH! MY TURBO-HARNESS! BETTER ACTIVATE IT . . .

GOT TO KEEP TRYING! COME ON YOU PILE OF COSMIC DEBRIS — ACTIVATE!
I WAS FREE-FALLING AT AROUND 125 MPH, OR AROUND 180 FEET A SECOND, AND THERE WAS LESS THAN 200 FEET LEFT.
BRRR
THERE! I KNEW IT WOULD WORK ALL ALONG!

I QUICKLY MADE IT BACK UP TO LEECH'S ROOM, BUT—
HE'S GONE? WELL THAT'S JUST GREAT ISN'T IT, ALADIN? THAT REALLY PROVES YOUR SUPERIORITY OVER ME — YOU LET HIM ESCAPE!
YOUR CLUMSY ENTRANCE . . . THROUGH WINDOW . . . ALERTED HIM THAT HE WAS . . . PURSUED. ON MY OWN . . . I COULD HAVE CAPTURED HIM . . . AND I STILL SHALL . . . SO DO NOT INTERFERE, GANT . . .
. . . OR I'LL ELIMINATE YOU!
AND WITH THAT, HE WAS GONE.

THERE WERE ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT TILL THE WEDDING, AND I WAS GETTING DESPERATE! LEECH SEEMED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TRACE.
I'VE TRIED EVERYWHERE TO FIND LEECH . . .

. . . GOING SOMEWHERE?
UNNNNGHHHHH!
I RACED DOWN THE STAIRS AFTER LEECH, BUT—
GONE! HE MUST HAVE TITANIUM BONES! BUT HE CAN'T ESCAPE ME NOW . . .
. . . NOT WHILE I'VE GOT THIS! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HE'S HEADING FOR . . .

MY ONLY CONSOLATION WAS THE THOUGHT THAT ALADIN PROBABLY WASN'T HAVING ANY MORE LUCK. BUT THAT WOULDN'T STOP LEECH FROM DOING HIS WORK—
I DON'T GET IT! THE WEDDING'S THIS AFTERNOON — LEECH MUST MAKE HIS MOVE TODAY! BUT . . . I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE AND . . .

WAIT! NO I HAVEN'T LOOKED EVERYWHERE. I HAVEN'T LOOKED IN THE PALACE.

FIGURED I COULD SNEAK IN AS WELL.
I HOPE THE BATTERY IN THIS ILLUSION SUIT HOLDS OUT FOR LONG ENOUGH — OR THIS MIGHT BE A VERY BAD IDEA!

SOON, THERE WAS I, DISGUISED AS A PALACE GUARD —
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SOLDIER? WHY AREN'T YOU OUT WITH THE GUARD?
MY PEGASOID TOOK FRIGHT AT THE CROWDS, SIR — THREW ME AND FLEW OFF! PERMISSION TO RETURN TO BARRACKS, SIR?
ALL RIGHT— GET MOVING!
THANK YOU, SIR.
AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON — THE ILLUSIONS THE SUIT PRODUCES USE UP TOO MUCH POWER TO LAST FOR VERY LONG!

AHA! A REAL GUARDSMAN'S UNIFORM — HIDDEN IN THE PEGASOID STALLS! MAYBE LEECH USED IT.
I CAN GET SOME READINGS.
THE LOC-UNIT TOOK PRECISE MEASUREMENTS OF ANY TRACE OF SKIN OR HAIR. ONCE IT HAD COMPUTED HIS UNIQUE BIO-MOLECULAR PATTERN, IT IDENTIFIED THE OWNER.

IT IS LEECH! MUST HURRY! THE WEDDING CEREMONY'S DUE TO START IN SEVEN TEMPRALS, AND IF . . .
WHAT'S THAT BLEEPING SOUND, AND . . . HEY! WHO ARE YOU?
A REAL PALACE GUARD TURNED UP.

HALT, OR I'LL . . . OOOMFF!
SORRY! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!

I'M IN A HURRY!
OWW! OOF!
SO I SET OFF ON MY DEADLY GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK . . .
I FIGURED THE PALACE WOULD BE PRETTY EMPTY, WITH EVERYONE AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY.
LOOK, JULYSZA, I KNOW IT'S UNLUCKY FOR ME TO SEE YOU BEFORE THE WEDDING, BUT YOU'VE JUST GOT TO HURRY UP — THE PROCESSION THROUGH THE WORSHIP CHAMBERS HAS BEGUN!
I KNOW, DORR. BUT I'M HUNGRY! PERHAPS YOU DON'T CARE! PERHAPS YOU'RE ONLY MARRYING ME FOR THE HONOUR IT WOULD BRING TO YOUR RATHER BORING LITTLE PLANET!
MY LOCATING UNIT HAD PIN-POINTED LEECH.

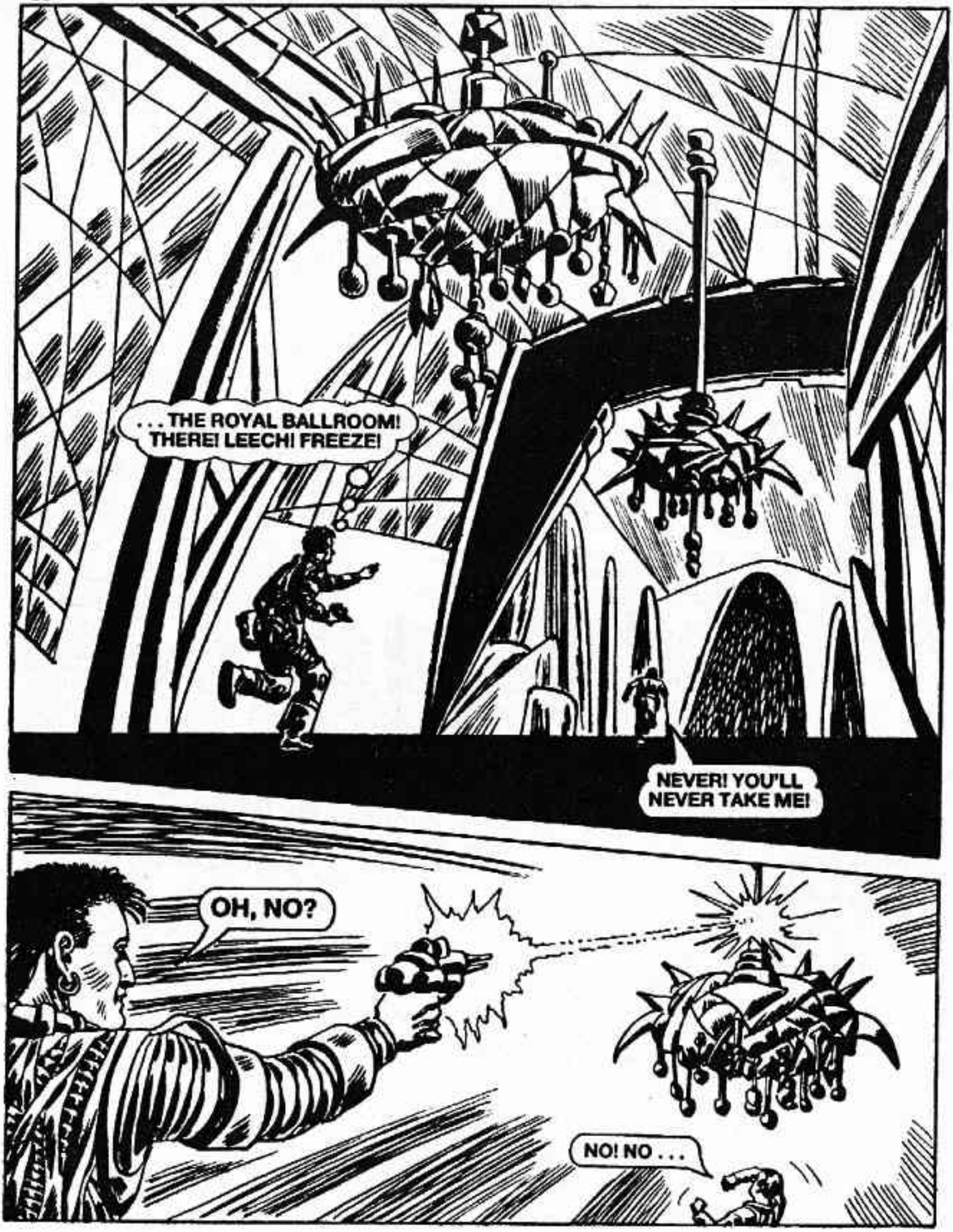
OF COURSE NOT, DEAREST! HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING? IF ONLY YOU'D STOP EATING BETWEEN MEALS YOU'D BE PERFECT!

HAH! FLATTERY IS FOOLS CHATTER, MY PRINCE. BUT I'LL CHANGE YOU SOON ENOUGH ONCE WE'RE WED. NOW . . . LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

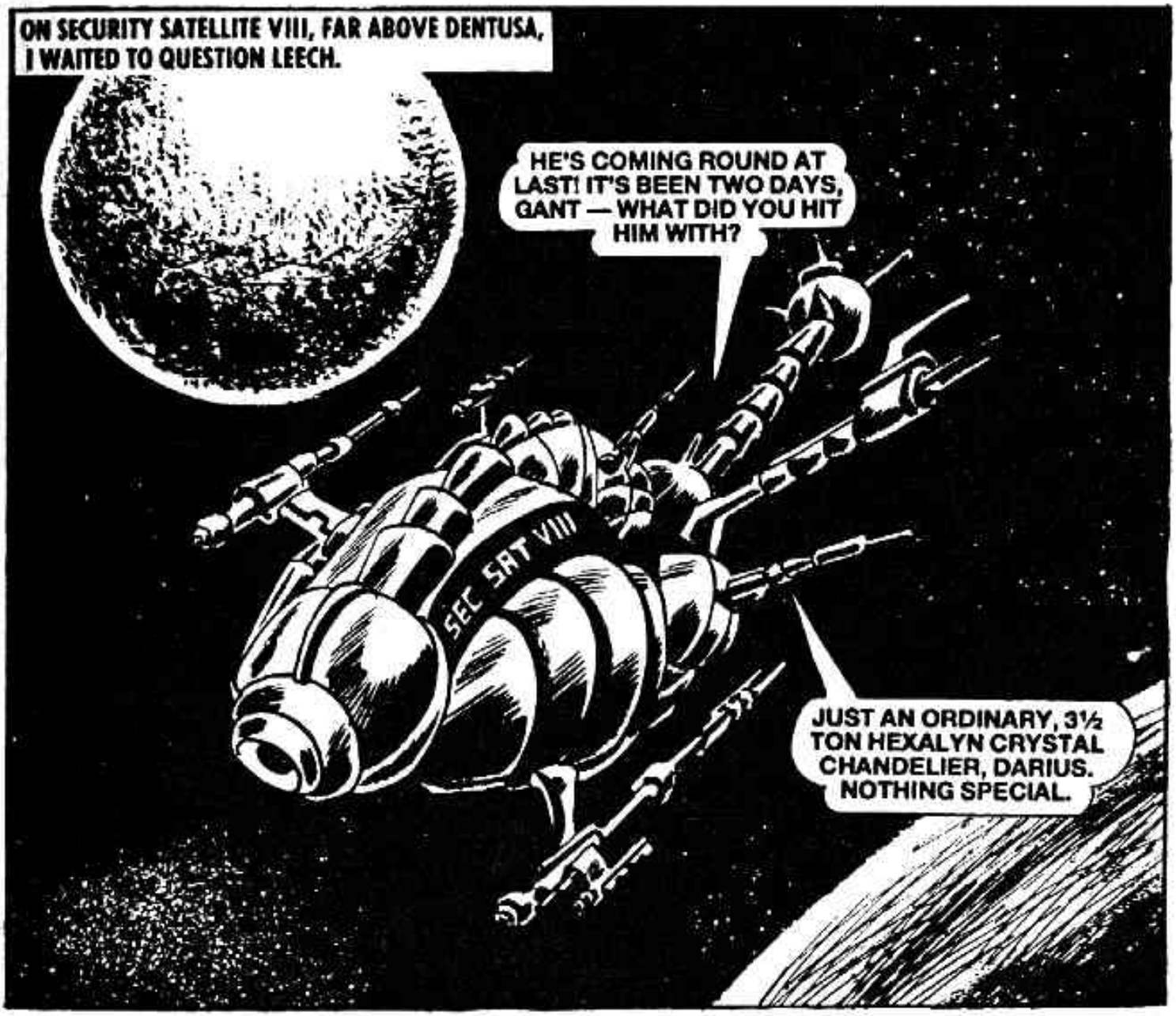
NO! NO MERE LOCATOR CAN STOP ME! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
OWWWW!

THE ARCHBISHOPUTER WAS CONDUCTING THE WEDDING CEREMONY —
. . . BY THESE VOWS, WHICH HAVE JOINED YOU SOLEMNLY AND IN THE EYES OF BULLFEX THE GOD OF PROGRESSIVE IDEALISM . . .
DORR? DORR — DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING FROM UP THERE?

NO! NOW SHUT UP AND PAY ATTENTION — THIS IS OUR WEDDING, NOT A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS!
. . . I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE. YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE.
GOODBYE, LOCATOR!
GOODBYE? WHY, LEECH . . . ARE . . . YOU . . .


. . . THE ROYAL BALLROOM! THERE! LEECH! FREEZE!
NEVER! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!
OH, NO?
NO! NO . . .

NOOOOOO!
I THINK I PREFERRED THE OLD DAYS, WHEN THEY USED TO SAY, "IT'S A FAIR COP, LOCATOR" AND ASK ME TO TAKE THEM IN!


ON SECURITY SATELLITE VIII, FAR ABOVE DENTUSA, I WAITED TO QUESTION LEECH.
HE'S COMING ROUND AT LAST! IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS, GANT — WHAT DID YOU HIT HIM WITH?
SEC SAT VIII
JUST AN ORDINARY, 3½ TON HEXALYN CRYSTAL CHANDELIER, DARIUS. NOTHING SPECIAL.

UNNHHH . . . WHA . . . WHA . . . WHERE . . . ? . . .
SURPRISE! I GOT YOU, LEECH. NOW I WANT WHOEVER HIRED YOU — SO TALK!
I DON'T THINK HE'LL WANT TO, GANT!

DEAD RIGHT I WON'T TALK! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. RIGHT. JUST LET ME SWITCH ON MY TRUTHSLATOR.
'TRUTHSLATOR' WHAT'S THAT?

. . . NOTHING CAN EVER MAKE A GRAND - MASTER REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF HIS EMPLOYER! WE HAVE TAKEN AN OATH . . .
A TRUTHSLATOR IS PART OF EVERY LOCATOR'S EQUIPMENT. BY ANALYZING THE ALPHA WAVES OF A SUBJECT AND THE STRESSES AND STRAINS PRESENT IN HIS VOICE, IT CONVERTS HIS LIES INTO HIS THOUGHTS! AND ACCORDING TO THIS, LEECH WAS HIRED TO MURDER . . . PRINCESS JULYSZA BY . . .

HOLEY MOLEY?
. . . PRINCE DORR OF HEXALYN
H-HE WANTED TO MURDER HIS OWN BRIDE-TO-BE??
THAT . . . IS . . . MOST INTERESTING . . . INDEED!
ALADIN! YOU'RE TOO LATE, TIN-HEAD! I CAUGHT THE ASSASSIN, SO I WIN!
YOU . . . HAVE . . . INDEED . . . CAUGHT LEECH . . . MARCUS GANT. BUT MY PROGRAMME . . . WAS NOT JUST TO CAPTURE THE PERPETRATOR . . . BUT TO DESTROY THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HIRING HIM . . .

. . . AND I SHALL BE BACK FOR YOU.
WAIT! ALADIN!
GANT — YOU CAN'T LET HIM KILL THE PRINCE OF HEXALYN! THAT WOULD MEAN WAR BETWEEN HEXALYN AND DENTUSA!
BUT SURELY HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET NEAR THE PRINCE! THE PALACE GUARD WILL . . .
THERE ISN'T ANY PALACE GUARD! THE ROYAL COUPLE LEFT ON THEIR HONEYMOON YESTERDAY, ON ONE OF THE REMOTEST AND MOST DESERTED SATELLITES OF KIELGOTH . . .

...THE ARCALIAN FALLS.
THIS IS BECOMING A VERY EXHAUSTING LOCATION! NOT ONLY HAVE I TO STOP ALADIN BLOWING HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS AWAY, BUT PREVENT DORR FROM MURDERING THE NEW MRS DORR!
ALIEN CRAFT! THIS IS KIELGOTH GROUND CONTROL. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND YOUR MISSION — BUSINESS OR PLEASURE?

ER . . . WELL, BUSINESS I SUPPOSE, ER . . .
YOU ARE IN A DESIGNATED RESTRICTED AREA, ALIEN! KINDLY FOLLOW US DOWN TO THE NEAREST SPACEPORT.
GREAT! JUST GREAT! NOW I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING REALLY DANGEROUS!
I'D . . . ER . . . LIKE TO OBLIGE YOU, SECURITY, BUT I'VE JUST SUFFERED A MAJOR ONBOARD EXPLOSION AND . . .
. . . I'M JUST ABOUT TO CRASH!
WHAT?!!!

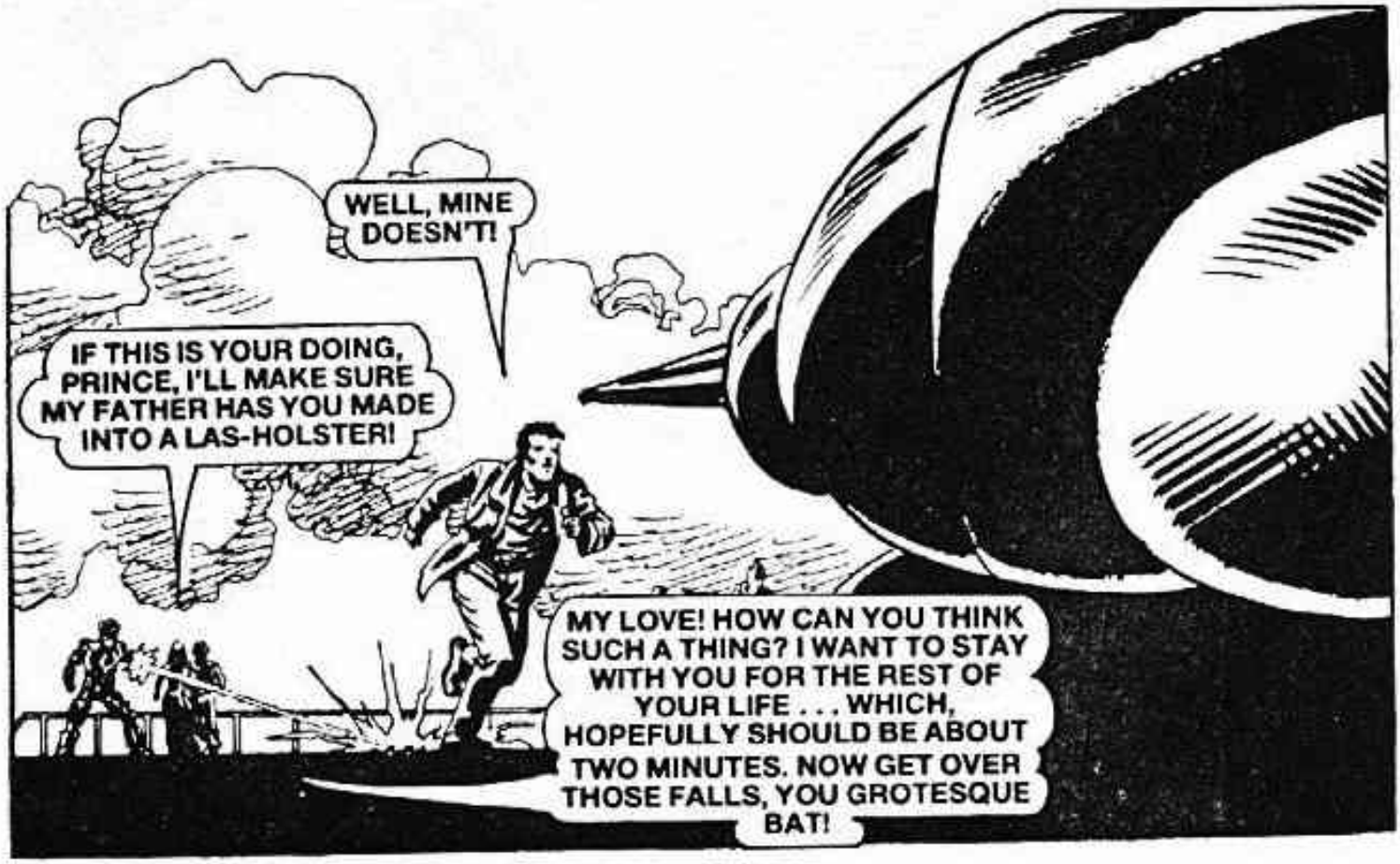
. . . BUT AT LEAST IT ACHIEVED THE DESIRED EFFECT.
THAT SHOULD KEEP THE AUTHORITIES BUSY WHILE I GET TO GRIPS WITH ALADIN AND THE PRINCE . . .
ONCE DOWN SAFELY—
DARLING, WHY NOT STOP EATING AND COME HERE AND LOOK AT THE FALLS? THIS IS OUR HONEYMOON — YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING ME THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE, NOT FEEDING YOUR FAT . . . ER . . . BEAUTIFUL FACE!
OH, NAG, NAG, NAG, DORR! MOTHER WARNED ME ABOUT YOU BORING HEXALYNIANS, AND I'M BEGINNING TO WISH I'D LISTENED!

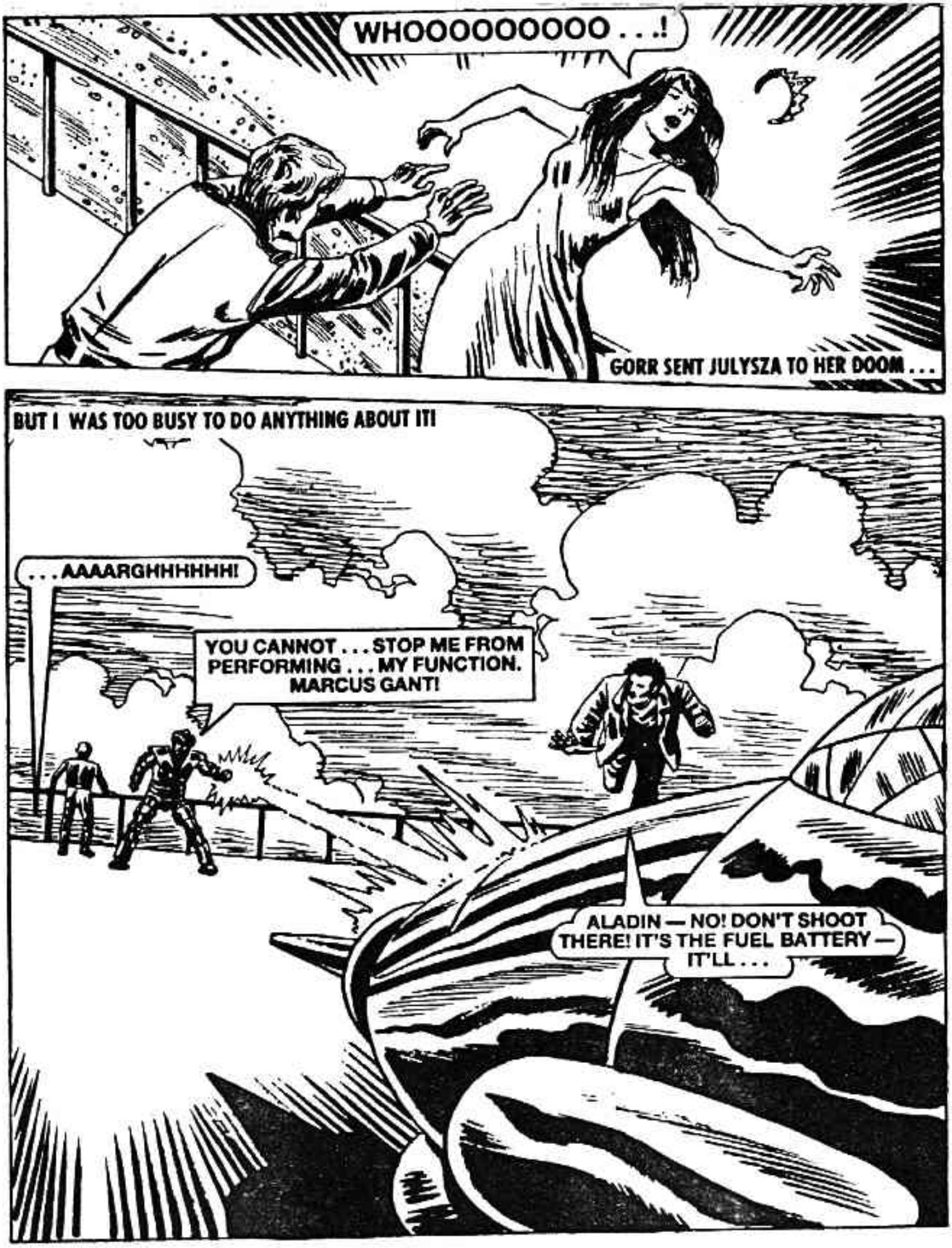
ALL I'M SAYING, MY DARLING, IS THAT YOU CAN EAT AT ANY TIME — AND COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DO! I JUST WANT YOU TO ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY.
NATURAL . . . *CHOMP!* BEAUTY? DADDY'S BEEN BRINGING ME HERE SINCE I WAS A BABY — I DON'T THINK IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
I ASCENDED ON A GRAVPAD — NOT DESIGNED FOR THAT FUNCTION.
IT'S ONLY A FEW SURPLUS ENERGY PARTICLES FROM THE PLANET'S POWER UNITS!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE JULYSZA — SO SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

COME HERE, MY DEAREST. HAVE JUST A LITTLE LOOK OVER THE EDGE — JUST FOR ME!
DON'T DO IT, PRINCESS . . .
. . . IT COULD BE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH! HOLD IT THERE, DORR! CONSIDER YOURSELF LOCATED!
W-WHAT?

THE GAME'S UP! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU KILL YOUR NEW WIFE!
K-K-K-KILL ME? YOU SPACE RAT!
TH-THAT'S LUDICROUS! DON'T BELIEVE HIM, MY DARLING!

NO GOOD, DORR! I'VE GOT PROOF, AND I'M TAKING YOU IN TO . . . AAAAGHHHH!
NO . . . GANT . . . I CANNOT ALLOW . . . THIS. MY PROGRAMME DICTATES THAT . . . HE MUST BE . . . DESTROYED!


WELL, MINE DOESN'T!
IF THIS IS YOUR DOING, PRINCE, I'LL MAKE SURE MY FATHER HAS YOU MADE INTO A LAS-HOLSTER!
MY LOVE! HOW CAN YOU THINK SUCH A THING? I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE . . . WHICH, HOPEFULLY SHOULD BE ABOUT TWO MINUTES. NOW GET OVER THOSE FALLS, YOU GROTESQUE BAT!

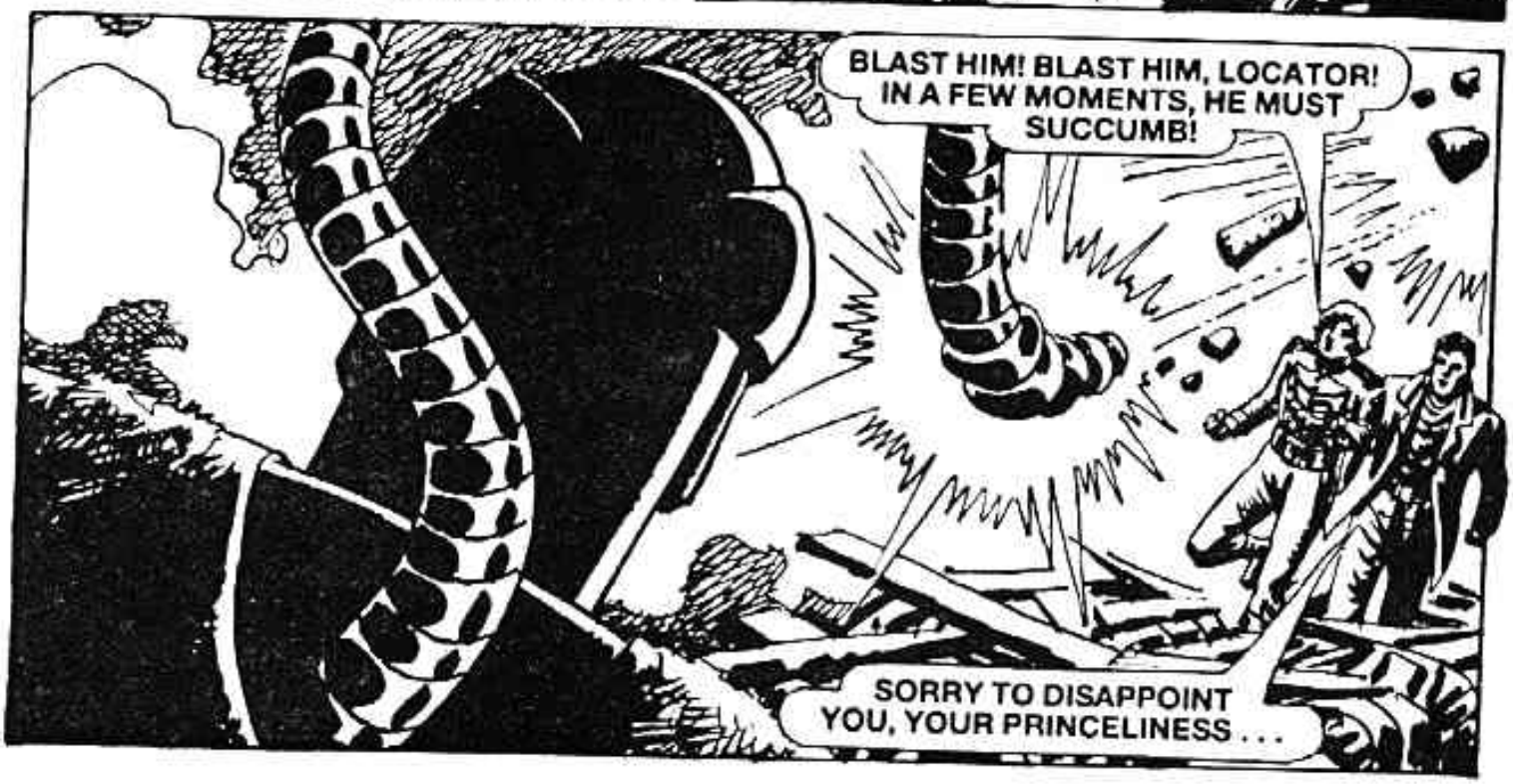

WHOOOOOOOOO . . .!
GORR SENT JULYSZA TO HER DOOM . . .
BUT I WAS TOO BUSY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
. . . AAAARGHHHHHH!
YOU CANNOT . . . STOP ME FROM PERFORMING . . . MY FUNCTION. MARCUS GANT!
ALADIN — NO! DON'T SHOOT THERE! IT'S THE FUEL BATTERY — IT'LL . . .

KABOOM
NOOOO! OOOOF!
EXPL...
BZZZZT!
STAY THERE, PRINCE! I'LL SAVE YOU — YOU MURDERING SCUM!
NO...YOU...WILL NOT...GANT...

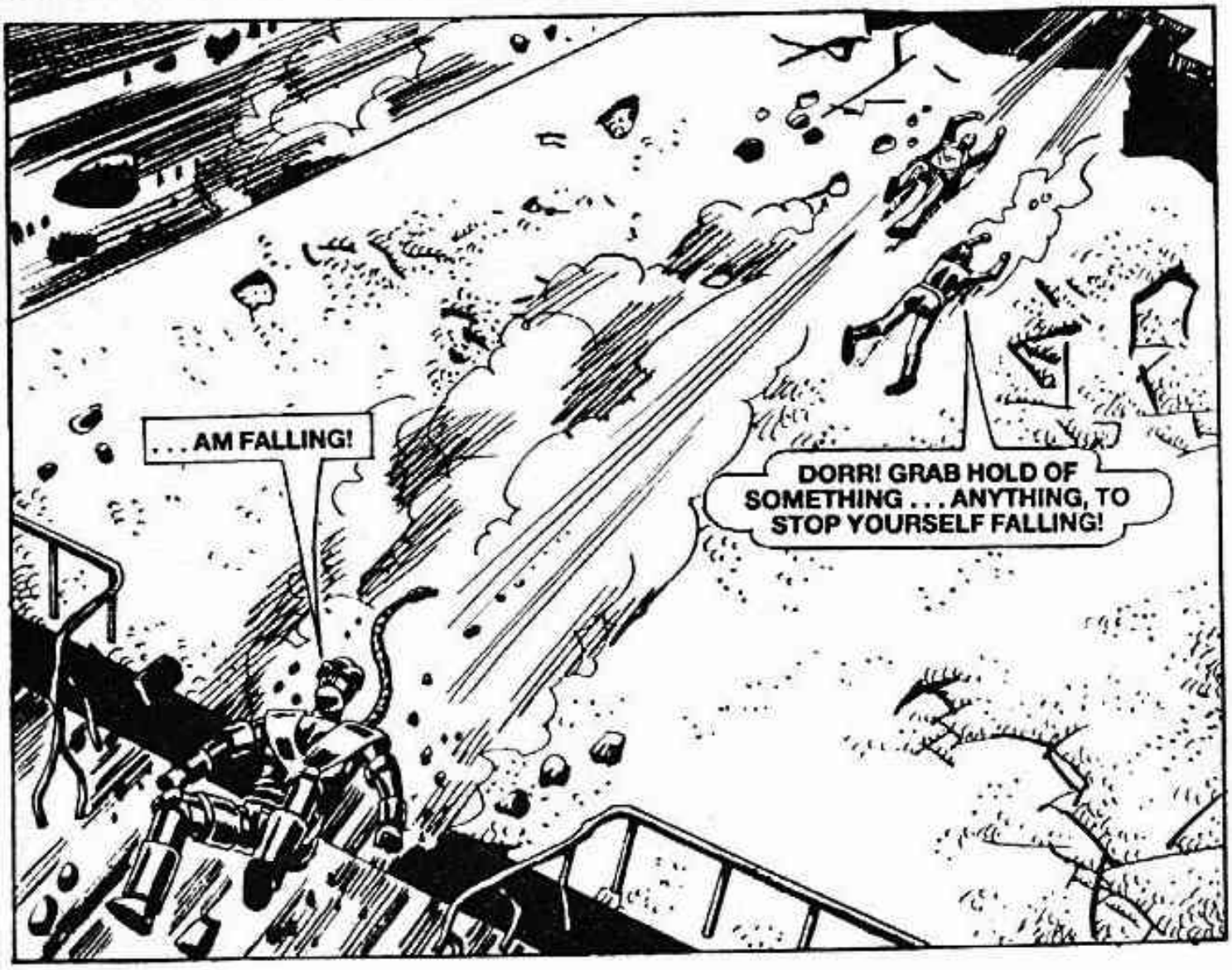
. . . BECAUSE . . . I SHALL DISPOSE OF . . . YOU BOTH!
I . . . I HAD TO KILL HER. SHE WAS AN IGNORANT, ILL-MANNERED PIG, LIKE ALL KIELGOTHANS. BUT MY FATHER WOULDN'T LISTEN — HE INSISTED I MARRY HER FOR POLITICAL REASONS! SO . . .
SO YOU HIRED OUR FRIEND IKON LEECH! OKAY — JUST KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN OR YOU'LL GET MY PLANET INTO EVEN MORE TROUBLE THAN IT'S IN ALREADY!
I KNEW MY BLASTER WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT AGAINST ALADIN'S SUPER-TOUGH METAL BODY. BUT IT COULD DECIMATE A WALL . . .
GET READY, PRINCE DORR!

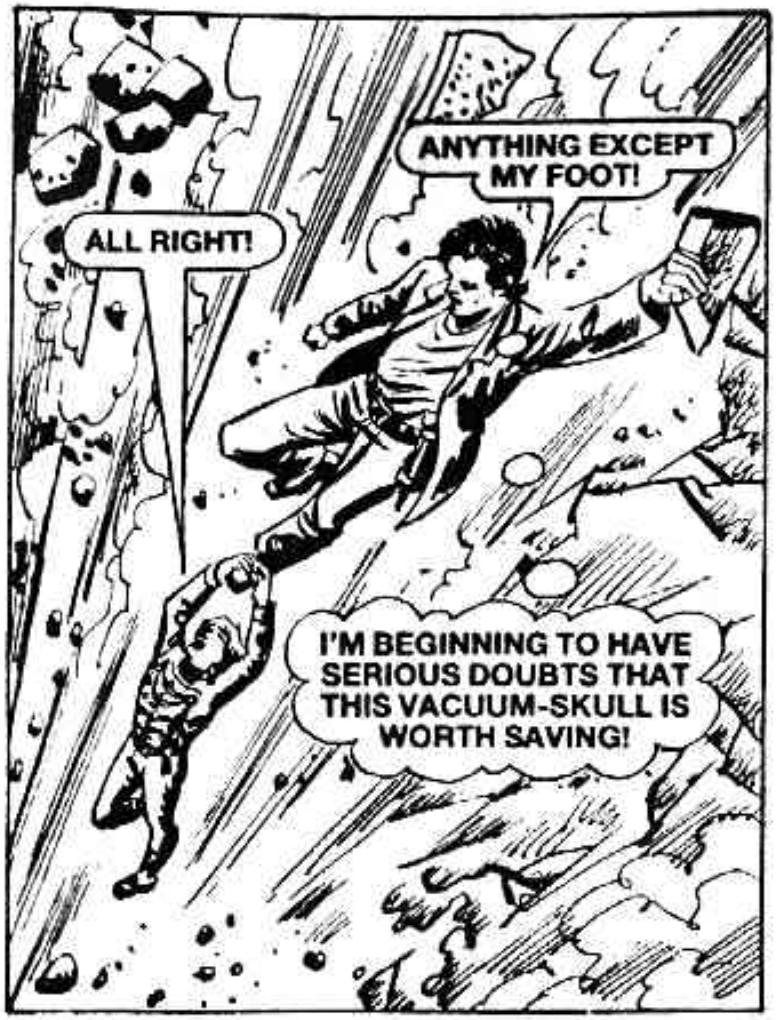
LET'S GO!
THE EXPLOSION OF THE ROYAL SKIMMER HAD DAMAGED THE HUGE OBSERVATION PLATFORM, WHICH IS WHY I WANTED OFF IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!
BUT THE METAL MANIAC HAD OTHER IDEAS!
I CANNOT . . . LET THE . . . PRINCE . . . SURVIVE. MUST . . .

. . . LIQUIDATE!
GET DOWN! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I'M RISKING MY LIFE TO PREVENT A HOMICIDAL ROBOT FROM KILLING A COLD BLOODED MURDERER!

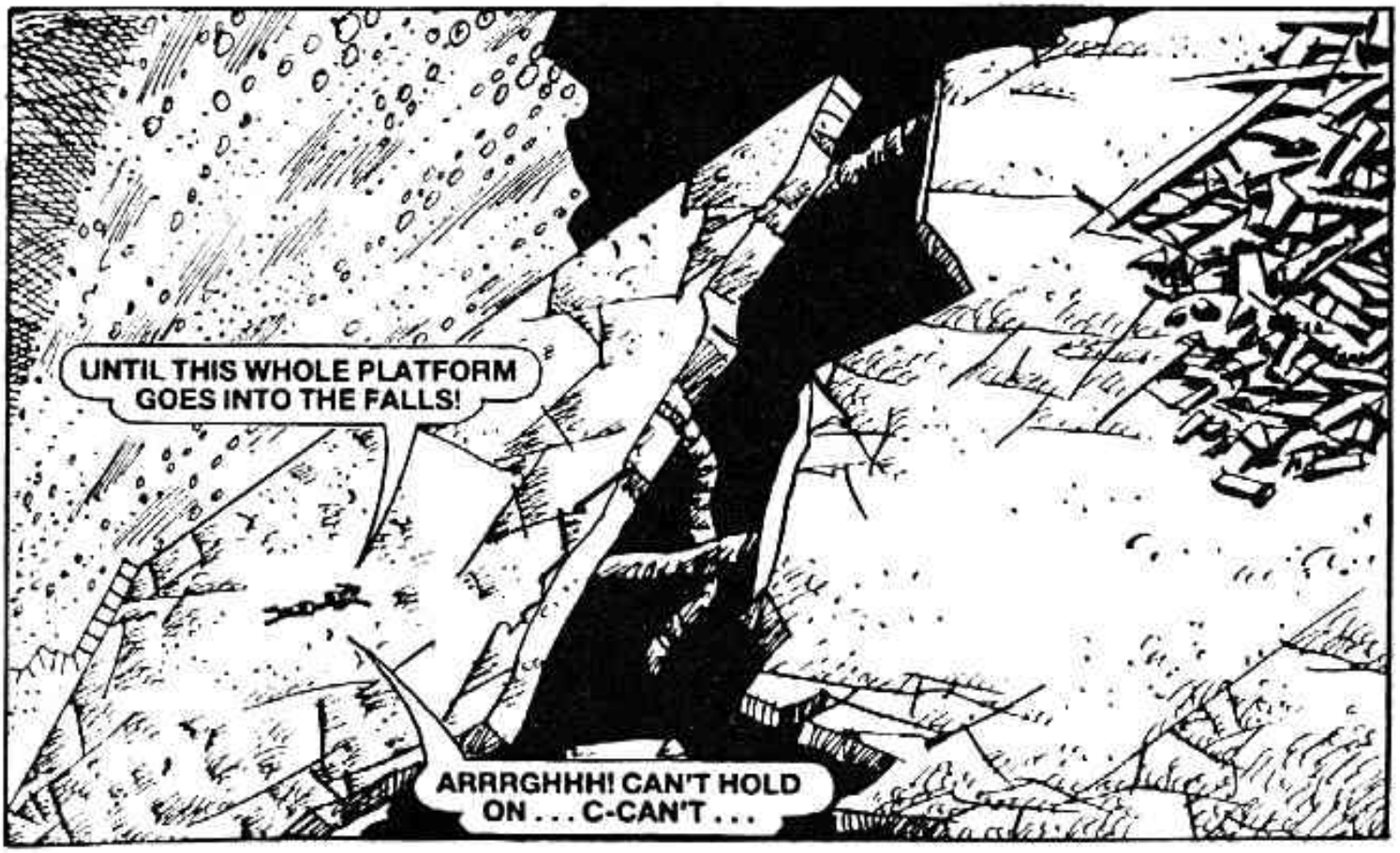

BLAST HIM! BLAST HIM, LOCATOR! IN A FEW MOMENTS, HE MUST SUCCUMB!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, YOUR PRINCELINESS . . .

BUT I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT A FEW MOMENTS!
EMERGENCY! HORIZONTAL . . . IS RAPIDLY BECOMING VERTICAL . . . AM LOSING MY GRIP ON . . . THE GROUND!
WITH ALL THE PUNISHMENT IT HAD TAKEN, THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM GAVE WEY.


. . . AM FALLING!
DORR! GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING . . . ANYTHING, TO STOP YOURSELF FALLING!


ANYTHING EXCEPT MY FOOT!
ALL RIGHT!
I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THIS VACUUM-SKULL IS WORTH SAVING!

THEN—
UNHHHH! WE'RE SAVED!
SAVED? DON'T BE STUPID! THIS IS JUST A BREATHING SPACE . . .


UNTIL THIS WHOLE PLATFORM GOES INTO THE FALLS!
ARRRGHHH! CAN'T HOLD ON . . . C-CAN'T . . .

NO! NOOOO!!
OH, NO . . .
THAT'S GREAT! JUST GREAT!
AAH!
I WAS DEEPLY UPSET. THOSE WERE MY BEST PAIR OF BOOTS.

NOW THE LAST GIRDER HOLDING UP THE PLATFORM IS ABOUT TO SNAP! AH! A FOOTHOLD! NOW I'VE GOT ABOUT TWO MICRONS TO SUMMON UP EVERY LAST BIT OF STRENGTH IN MY BODY.
. . . AND FIND OUT WHERE MY GRAV PLATFORM WAS —
IT WAS THERE, SOMEWHERE —
HERE GOES!
MADE IT! I'M ALIVE . . .

I MIGHT HAVE FAILED TO SAVE DORR AND THE PRINCESS. BUT I'M ALIVE . . . AND I'VE CAUGHT LEECH AND, BEST OF ALL . . .
. . . OUTWITTED THAT STUPID ROBOT . . . UNGHHH!
G-G-G-GREETINGS . . . PZZZT . . . MARCUS . . . G-G-G-GANT!

HAVE . . . FAILED . . . TO FULFIL . . . PROGRAMMING . . . BUT AS YOU KILLED THE KILLER, REASON DICTATES THAT I KILL YOU.
YOU'VE GOT A ONE-TRACK PROGRAMME, ALADIN! AND YOU LOOK LIKE I FEEL! WHY DON'T WE JUST CALL IT QUITS AND GO HOME!
NEGATIVE . . . SUCH A COURSE . . . IS NOT IN MY PROGRAMME!
I WAS BATTERED, BRUISED . . . EXHAUSTED, AND SO WAS THE TINHEAD, BUT THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO STOP IT.
GOTCHA! OKAY, ALADIN, YOU WANT A FIGHT . . .

YOU'VE GOT ONE!
FOOLISH . . . HUMAN. YOU TRY TO FIGHT . . . ON EQUAL TERMS . . . BUT YOU FORGET ONE THING . . .
YOU CANNOT FLY!
HE HAD A POINT! I HAD TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION — AND FAST!

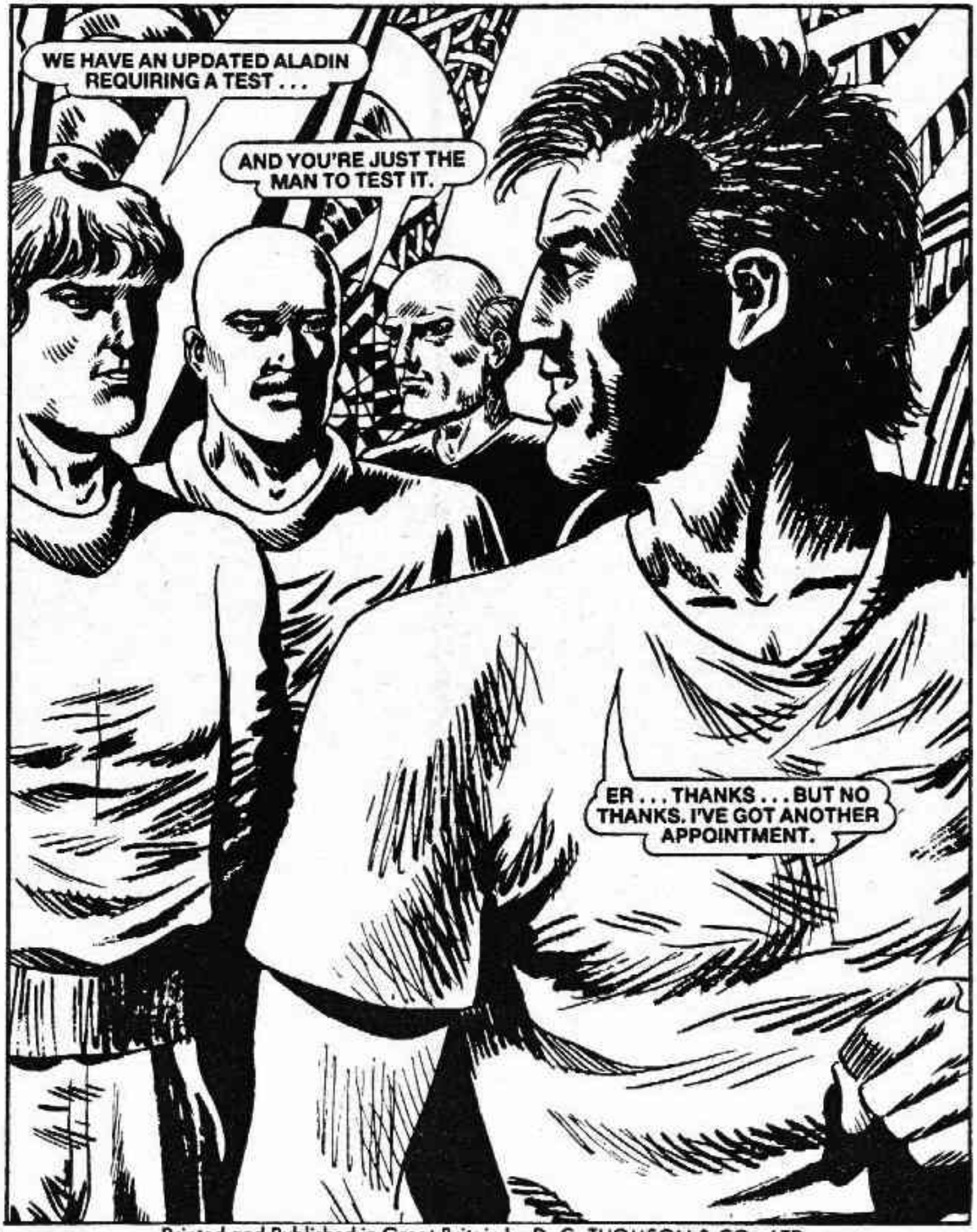
I DECIDED TO SLIP OUT FOR A MOMENT!
WRIGGLING . . . WILL NOT AID YOU NOW . . . MARCUS GANT. ALADIN . . . IS THE FINAL VICTOR!
I'M NOT WRIGGLING, ALADIN — AND YOU HAVEN'T WON YET . . .
. . . NOT WHEN YOUR TRIP THROUGH THE FALLS HAS LEFT YOUR FLYING UNITS EXPOSED!
WHAT . . .? NO! GANT!
NOOOOOO . . . !!!!
NOW I REALLY HAD TO MOVE!

I MADE A PARACHUTE FROM MY JACKET, I ONCE SAW IT DONE IN A 20TH CENTURY VID-FILM.
SEE YOU IN THE BASEMENT, TINHEAD!
I KNEW THAT ALADIN WOULD TRY TO FALL TOWARD THE GRAV-PAD.
BUT I ALSO KNEW THAT HE WAS FALLING TOO FAST.
MY . . . PROGRAMME MUST . . . HAVE . . . SOLUTION TO THIS! BZZZZT! MUST . . .

MUST . . . BZZZT! . . .
MUST . . . M . . .
ALADIN WAS GONE FOR GOOD . . .
. . . AND I DIDN'T INTEND TO FOLLOW HIM!
NOW . . . THE BIG QUESTION IS. HAS THE COAT MANAGED TO SLOW MY DESCENT ENOUGH, OR . . .
. . . GNNGHHHH! MADE IT!
THERE GOES MY COAT, THOUGH! THOSE FALLS SEEM TO HAVE VAPOURISED HALF MY WARDROBE TODAY.

I STEERED THE PAD TOWARDS SOLID GROUND.
WELL . . . I MADE IT! BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN CALEX HEARS I'VE FAILED? WHEN THE LASZLO CORPORATION HEARS I'VE DESTROYED THEIR PROTOTYPE? AND WHEN THE RULERS OF KIELGOTH AND HEXALYN FIND OUT THEIR HEIRS ARE DEAD!
GANT GOT THE ANSWER TO THE LAST QUESTION SHORTLY AFTER LIFTING OFF FROM KIELGOTH.
AND NOW, ON THE GALAXY NEWS LINKUP, WE TAKE YOU TO THE PLANET OF HEXALYN . . .

. . . WHERE THE KING OF THAT PLANET AND THE EMPEROR OF THE OPPOSING WORLD OF KIELGOTH UNITED BY THE GRIEF OF LOSING THEIR NEWLY MARRIED OFFSPRING, TODAY SIGNED A TREATY GUARANTEEING PEACE BETWEEN THEIR TWO PLANETS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT — PEACE AFTER TWELVE REVOLUTIONS! LOOKS LIKE ALADIN DID ME A FAVOUR! I WONDER WHAT CALEX WILL THINK OF THAT?
AS SOON AS GANT MADE PLANET-FALL ON DENTUSA—
WONDERFUL WORK, GANT, QUITE BRILLIANT! YOU DESERVE EVERY MINICRED OF YOUR FEE — EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY DO AS YOU WERE TOLD!
STRANGELY ENOUGH — THEY DID!
. . . AFTER ALL, GANT, WE COULDN'T HAVE PUT OUR A.L.A.D.I.N. 4000 ON THE MARKET WITH ALL THE WEAKNESSES YOU EXPOSED! YOU DID US A FAVOUR!
YEAH . . . WELL, THINGS GOT A LITTLE BIT OUT OF CONTROL, AMBASSADOR. I HAD TO IMPROVISE. I JUST HOPE THAT THOSE GUYS OVER AT LASZLO WILL UNDERSTAND!
WE UNDERESTIMATED YOU, GANT! I DON'T MIND SAYING IT — WE DEFINITELY UNDERESTIMATED YOU!



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